

# MCL NEWS



Maamba Collieries Limited

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## HIGHLIGHTS

### NAVA LTD BOD VISITS MCL

Page 3

### KARIBA PIPELINE EXTENSION

Page 5

### MPS PUPILS AT JETS FAIR

Page 9

### ECO-FRIENDLY WASTE DISPOSAL

Page 11

## BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING

It was love at first sight for Talent Siangazi when she first laid her eyes on a mine dump truck as a young girl.. [Continue to page 19](#)



**Talent Siangazi - MCL's First Female Dump Truck Operator**



**MR. ASHWIN DEVINENI**  
**RESIDENT DIRECTOR**

MESSAGE  
.....

**D**ear Readers,  
The maiden visit by the Board of Directors of Nava (formerly Nava Bharat Ventures) Ltd., was a hallmark event as it gave them an opportunity to appreciate MCL's contribution to Zambia.

On the operational front, I am pleased to note that Management has proactively taken steps to move our pumping site to ensure unhindered availability of water for continued power generation, especially given the likelihood of reduced generation from hydropower plants. This of course will simultaneously help us meet and provide for the community's water requirements.

Continued focus on ensuring our school provides the best trained teachers for our children is laudable, while I am glad to see efforts to train the youth and support students pursuing higher studies.

With the world focus on climate change, I am heartened to see the continued resolve to pursue environmentally friendly projects which also ensure cost optimization, while championing a healthy and safe working environment. I am particularly happy to hear of the push to welcome more women into our workforce!

I once again reiterate the need for all of you and your families to stay well and be safe!

Ndalumba kapati, Natotela saana, Dzikomo kwambiri.

## RD'S MESSAGE





**DAVID VIJAY KUMAR**  
**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

MESSAGE



**D**ear Readers,

In line with our CSR policy, we have continued demonstrating our commitment to serve our community better. On the education front, MCL has put in place stringent measures to ensure that the learners get the best out of Maamba Private School. The school has been well stocked with modern learning and teaching materials, and we have recruited six new well experienced teachers. We have also created linkages that provide an opportunity for our staff members to interact with their colleagues from renowned institutions in the country. Equally, through enhanced management interaction with the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), parents and guardians have been encouraged to keenly monitor the academic performance of their children.

Amidst water challenges that threaten smooth operations of the TPP and the general wellbeing of the Maamba community, we have successfully shifted our water pumping station to yet another point in the lake, dubbed point "C". Credit goes to the MCL engineers from various sections that ensured that the task was timely executed without creating any water disruption to operations and the community.

To offer quality sports facilities to our community and to tap talent among the youth, Maamba Energy Stars F.C. has recruited young players from the district, who have blended well with the seniors in the team. It is our dream that, one day, the team will play in FAZ Super Division. To realize this dream, we continue the process of identifying and training the local talent. A new coach has also been appointed.

All works for setting up a modern Eye Care Centre at Maamba General Hospital have been completed and soon, the centre will start providing much-needed eye care services to the community.

MCL has continued attracting high profile visitors to witness its operations. The visit by Nava (formerly Nava Bharat Ventures) Ltd. Directors from India, accompanied by our Chairman, during this quarter cannot go unnoticed. We are confident that a visit of that magnitude will market MCL as one of the best run Independent Power Producers in Zambia, and thereby opening more investment opportunities in Zambia.

I wish to reiterate MCL's commitment to safety and encourage all staff members to strictly observe safety at workplace. Each member of the MCL family is called upon to be a brother's keeper, this therefore, entails that all unsafe acts should be promptly reported to relevant authorities.

Best regards.

# NAVA (FORMERLY NAVA BHARAT VENTURES) LTD. BOARD OF DIRECTORS PAY MAIDEN VISIT TO MCL



NAVA DIRECTORS AT MCL

**M**aamba Collieries Ltd had the rare privilege and honour of hosting the Board of Directors of Nava (formerly Nava Bharat Ventures) Limited accompanied by Senior Management Executives from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022.

The first-ever visit by the Board of our principals was for the Directors to acquaint themselves with the operations at Zambia's largest coal mine and coal-fired Thermal Power Plant and to appreciate the Corporate Social Initiatives undertaken to ensure community development. The major highlights of the visit were a detailed tour to the plant, mine pits and various CSR-related sites.

The Directors were happy to see operations at the open pit mine and witnessed the Surface Miner, Zambia's most modern mining equipment in action. The visit to the Power Plant was highly appreciated as it afforded the opportunity to the Directors to understand MCL's contribution to energy security and diversity of Zambia's power generation capacity.

The Independent Directors, all of whom were visiting Maamba for the first time, were particularly impressed with the quality of housekeeping and operational hygiene at the Mine and the Power Plant and congratulated MCL management and staff for the exemplary efforts being made in environmental management and restoration. In keeping with MCL tradition, the visitors helped contribute to the company's 'Green Maamba' campaign by planting saplings on the TPP lawns to keep the premises green and ensure environmental restoration.

The visiting Directors were also appreciative of the committed, warm, responsible and cohesive workforce at MCL.

The Directors were introduced to a host of CSR activities undertaken by MCL – including the Livelihood Program at Maamba Youth Centre, the MCL Training Centre, the Maamba Township road network, the support to the health sector and many more. The visitors were visibly impressed by MCL's commitment to the upliftment of the community



by a well-coordinated and implemented CSR strategy. At Maamba Private School, the visiting team was treated to a rousing welcome by school pupils, who showcased a number of activities which included songs/dances and poetry after which the Directors interacted with the pupils.

*“Pleased to see the clean Power Plant as well as the Coal Mines..., warm and affectionate yet very responsible employees...”*

Mrs. B. Shanti Sree,  
Independent Director & Leader of the Delegation



**VISITING DIRECTORS PLANT SAPLINGS ON TPP LAWNS**



# MCL'S KARIBA WATER PIPELINE EXTENSION PROJECT: WHY DOES IT MATTER?



HDPE PIPES BEING LAID IN PREPARATION FOR WATERLINE EXTENSION PROJECT

**A**s part of the construction of the thermal power plant, MCL obtained approvals from WARMA and other concerned authorities and built a new 22-km long water pipeline from Lake Kariba to Maamba for use by the community as well as to make feed water for the two massive boilers.

However, debilitating droughts in recent years, have wreaked havoc on Zambia's water bodies, including Lake Kariba – the world's largest artificial lake. This has necessitated setting up of temporary pumping points to make up for the highly depleted levels at the original pump station during the dry season.

Alternate Points A and B were constructed in 2016 and 2019 respectively – with the mine shifting pump sites depending on depleting water levels in the lake. Each pumping station can supply 30,000 cubic metres of water per day to Maamba Township and MCL for domestic consumption and company operations respectively.

From the pump station, about 4,000 cubic meters water is transported to a water treatment plant operated by the Southern Water and Sanitation Company (SWSC), and after it is treated, it is sent to the community while the rest goes to the Thermal Power Plant and the mine.

However, on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022, water levels were measured at 24.3% of lake capacity, against a previous reading of 44.6%, on the same date last year.

Based on continuous monitoring of changes in lake water levels, MCL decided to extend the current pipeline and associated infrastructure to a third and new alternative pumping point C along the lake, to ensure we could meet the demand of the power plant for continued power supply to the grid at a national level while ensuring the requirements of the community and the township are also met.

## HOW WILL THIS PROJECT HELP?

Alternate Point B, though sufficient to satisfy community consumption in the hot season for the past three years, had been constructed near the point where the Zongwe river flows into the lake.

However, a major challenge faced at this site was silting, as whenever flooding was experienced, the point would become choked with silt, rendering the pumps completely ineffective. The decision to extend the line further to point C was made with careful consideration, this time to ensure a sustainable source of water for the local economy. Even as lake levels recede, alternate point C is expected to continue



to be a reliable source of water, making power plant operations as well as year-round supply of water to Maamba community possible.

## CURRENT STATUS

As of early September 2022, works to complete the complex extension project were well underway, involving cross functional expertise from the mine and works are estimated to be completed by end September 2022.

Earlier, the electrical engineering team, comprising 25 Zambian engineers and technicians had by end May, already extended the 6.6kV powerline to the new site.

“My role as an electrical engineer was to design the line and provide all the necessary materials to execute the project,” said MCL Mine Electrical Engineer Mukanwa Simunji. “We use electric motors to pump the water, which require electricity to power the three 132kW capacity motors on site.”

Mine Mechanical Manager, Katragadda Rambabu, was responsible for overseeing the pipe works. “My role involved procurement and installation of the pipes, as well as shifting and commissioning the pumps.”

## BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

The extension project, while guaranteeing water for the plant as well as access to clean water for Maamba’s growing community, also creates opportunities for local vendor participation in Maamba’s supply chain.

“We make sure to procure 50% from local suppliers – for this project we are sourcing our HDPE pipes from Zambia and South Africa. Our local supplier has already supplied the pipes and we have received some quantity from South Africa, with two more loads expected around mid-September,” said Mr. Rambabu.

Speaking on the importance of buying from local vendors and supporting Zambian suppliers, Mr. Simunji added, “The conductors we use are manufactured within Zambia from ZAMEFA, and while the insulators are imported from outside, we buy from the local dealers too.”

“We also have local contractors who provide labour and by sourcing local material and labour, we are empowering Zambians.”

The importance of water to MCL’s operations and the economic activities of the wider community cannot be overstated. From household consumption to farming activities, Maamba Township has grown to depend on MCL’s water supply system.

Apart from the operational requirement, the Kariba Pipeline Extension project will also allow MCL to better meet the needs of its growing host community, to fulfil its corporate social contract with the community.



Mr. Mukanwa Simunji



Mr. Katragadda Rambabu



**ALTERNATE PUMP STATION B**

# KEEPING UP WITH MODERN TRENDS FOR EDUCATORS

## INTERVIEW WITH PRINCIPAL MAAMBA PRIVATE SCHOOL

Teaching is one of the oldest professions and considered a noble profession since time immemorial. Practically, every profession on the planet exists because an individual chose to pass on their knowledge or skills to someone else - in effect becoming a teacher.

But as life and society evolve, so too must the teaching fraternity. Educators must constantly sharpen their skills and knowledge to remain abreast of worldwide trends and ensure they are always able to deliver the best to their students.

Since its establishment in September 1974, Maamba Private School (MPS) has been the region's shining example, when it comes to maintaining updated teaching methodologies and keeping up with contemporary trends in the education sector.

We sat down with MPS Principal, Mr. Ernest Makasa, to hear how the MPS faculty is learning new methods of teaching to stay abreast with modern trends especially in the context of the current technology-based education system, which came into sharp focus due to compulsion of conducting online classes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q: Kindly tell us your name and your position here at Maamba Private School.

A: My names are Ernest Makasa and I'm the Principal at Maamba Private School. I'll be clocking 5 years in October this year and I've enjoyed my time here.



Mr. Ernest Makasa,  
Principal at Maamba Private School

Q: Maamba Private School has maintained a busy schedule during the recent winter holidays, can you tell us more about what you have been up to?

A: Indeed, this has been a very interesting vacation. Out of four weeks, two weeks were set aside for education and development. We started with holiday tuitions for the examination classes.

Then we had a workshop for our Pre-school to Grade 4 teachers. The 3-day workshop from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 was fully sponsored by MCL.

We also took part in national conferences held in different provinces – the school sent a teacher in Industrial Arts to Mansa, an IT Specialist to Livingstone, and a Mathematics Teacher to Mongu.

As you can see, the two weeks were well utilised and from that perspective, I'll say it was a very productive holiday.



*Q: Can you give us some highlights of the content of the MCL sponsored workshop? You mentioned the schedule but what exactly was covered?*

**A: This was a very condensed workshop. On day one, of course, we had welcoming remarks from MCL Chief Operations Officer Mr. David Vijay Kumar.**

**The first day we covered 'Equipping Your Learners with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skilling' and 'Reading, Composition, and Comprehension for Lower Primary.' As you very well know, when a child can read and understand, they gain the ability to open opportunities for themselves.**

**On day two we covered 'Numbers, Shapes, and Colours,' then we moved on to 'Number Values: Sorting Numbers,' and on the last day, we had 'Games, Dancing, and Music,' for learning is more effective when playtime is assimilated into it.**

**Where a child does not play, they'll think they have not learned. Music, of course, is very powerful in education. It captures the attention of the learner, making them want to listen to you more and in the process, you can teach them sounds and language along with fundamentals of music.**

**This is a basic summary of some of the topics that were covered during the workshop. In reality the content was broad and encompassed different facets of teacher – pupil relationship.**

*Q: What about the national conferences? Who organises these conferences and what is the objective?*

**A: These were organised by the Ministry of Education, under the Permanent Secretary - Technical Services.**

**Due to the dynamic nature of education, teachers must keep abreast with modern trends. There is so much that is taking place in education today that if you do not go to such conferences, you would be lagging. Consequently, we think that the value of these national conferences cannot be overstated. They are very useful.**



**MPS has been the region's shining example when it comes to maintaining updated teaching methodologies and keeping up with contemporary trends**

*Q: For Maamba Private School, why is it important that your members of staff participate in conferences like these?*

**A: Well, no man is an island. Similarly, we're part of Zambia, a wider society. We may be private school, but our pupils will go on to study or work in Zambia or other parts of the world. Because of this, we need to know what's happening across the globe.**

**We sit for the same examinations in Grades 7 and 9 so we need to know what's in the curriculum otherwise we'll be teaching wrong or archaic things. We need to keep abreast so that we can teach with confidence and knowledge as well.**

*Q: What is the return on investment you hope to see from the workshop and conferences?*

**A: I can only echo what my teachers said to me. They said, "Mr. Makasa, we are going to perform." That made me very happy. Knowledge that is not used is not knowledge and the recipient of the knowledge at the end of the day is the child. If we know so much, but we can't transfer that knowledge, then we're not doing what we're supposed to do.**

**In sponsoring our holiday activities, it is evident that teacher development is considered important by MCL's management. I believe that the purpose is to see that there is a change in the way we've been doing things and that there is benefit filtering down to the learners. My expectations are very high.**

# MEET MAAMBA PRIVATE SCHOOL'S HIGH-FLYERS AT THE NATIONAL JETS FAIR



MPS pupils showcasing their JETS awards

**T**he National Junior Engineers, Technicians, and Scientists (JETS) Fair is an annual convocation of some of the country's youngest and brightest students. JETS is regarded as one of the top Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics competitions for primary and secondary schools in the country.

At this fair, pupils who have consistently come out champions in their local, district, and then provincial level quiz competitions and Olympiads are brought together to compete and earn awards as the best student in their respective fields.

The JETS Society, established in 1968 by teachers of science under the Zambia Association of Science Educators (ZASE) exists to develop knowledgeable young scientists, mathematicians and technologists who will provide service and leadership to the nation, pursue creative research and strive for innovations in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

This year, Maamba Private School was ably represented by three of its high performers - Vennia Lunga, Bwalya Malama, and Prosper Chinkumbe.

"It was very hard. The questions we were asked covered Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Math – nothing from our Grade 9 lessons," recalled 14-year-old quiz-whizz, Vennia Lunga. Her teammate, 14-year-old Bwalya Malama agreed, "The first round was kind of difficult. We thought we'd be eliminated, but we managed to pull through and move on to the next round."

The dynamic duo competed at the first three levels of the JETS quiz competition - Inter-school, District, and then at Provincial levels scooping first prize every time paving the way for competing at the national level.

Their final round against Hillcrest Technical Secondary School, ended in a draw. Fighting hard in the tiebreaker, Team MPS lost by a single point and proudly won second place. For Vennia and Bwalya however, this outcome had more positives than negatives. "I benefitted a lot," Ms. Lunga said, "Who knows? Maybe the questions we were asked might be there in the Grade 9 examination. So, for me, it will be easy."





**VENNIAH LUNGA**

“Most of the questions that came helped me open my mind and encouraged me to study more because I didn’t know what to expect,” added Ms. Malama. “They taught me to be ready for anything.”

Prosper Chinkumbe, while shy by nature showcased his daring in the science Olympiad. Undaunted by level of difficulty, 12-year-old Prosper sat for each Olympiad till reaching the national level, where he scored the highest and was awarded first prize.

Speaking about what this award meant to him, Prosper said that it had only encouraged him to want more. “I will make a project next year and maybe try to reach the national level again.”

All three pupils ascribed their success to the extra practice they put in while preparing for the competitions and were extremely grateful for the support they received from their teachers at Maamba Private School.



**BWALYA MALAMA**



**“Most of the questions that came...  
taught me to be ready for anything.”**



**PROSPER CHINKUMBE**

# IS ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY WASTE MANAGEMENT ECONOMICAL?

**WASTE MANAGEMENT IS INVARIABLY A CHALLENGE FOR THE MINING INDUSTRY. IT IS NOT THE MOST GLAMOROUS SIDE OF THE JOB, BUT IT IS AN IMPORTANT FACET OF MINING OPERATIONS THAT MUST BE HANDLED WITH CARE.**



Loose overburden

Operations at MCL, like any mine generates different types of waste. Most common in an open pit mine is the sandstone and granite from the mine pit surface commonly called the overburden.

The overburden is usually hauled away from the mine pit and dumped at designated external dumping sites, while the exposed mineral seam is mined and transported for further processing.

At Kanzinze Open Pit mine, one of Maamba's two main pits, part of the overburden is being re-used to construct a ramp between the two mining blocks of Kanzinze.

"Right now, we are constructing a ramp that our trucks will use to haul material mined from Block B to Block A. We have mined out Block A and now, because of the gradient of the slope between the blocks, it is impossible for the trucks to go up to Block B, hence the need for this ramp," he said.

Mining being a highly capital-intensive business, every operational cost needs to produce a return, including waste management. As operations become more and more expensive, mining companies are looking for ways to optimise their internal processes and reduce operating costs.

Mr. Sampa went on to clarify how this ramp is an innovative, cost-cutting measure being implemented, "Instead of taking the overburden all the way to the fire dumps, we are now bringing it here. This saves on operational cycle time as more waste can be hauled in a short space of time because of the reduced distance."



Chrispin Sampa - MCL Mine Captain

This, as Mine Captain Chrispin Sampa explains, is a waste management method that not only saves the mine money but also helps to mitigate some of the environmental risks associated with coal mining.

For Maamba, this in-pit dumping is not only economical, but it is also a way to mitigate environmental impact while also safeguarding health of the miners.

"This ramp will also help us fight the fires from the otherwise exposed coal, that may start due to spontaneous combustion on the highwall by covering it with inert overburden," explained Mr. Sampa.

"Spontaneous combustion, of course, generates a lot of fumes and that is not healthy for the people working in the pit. The carbon oxides produced, are very dangerous. Therefore, the ramp was designed to cover part of the highwall, ensuring that we don't have fires in the future."

The combination of both cost-effective and environment friendly management of waste material is indeed possible. Maamba Collieries' proactive approach in recycling the overburden in Kanzinze pit not only ensures continued operational efficiency but contributes to the overall sustainability of the mining operations.



# ALTERNATIVE SUPPLY OF CLEAN WATER FOR A GROWING COMMUNITY



Daniel Fwambo  
MCL Environmental Officer

**I**n keeping with ZEMA regulations, Maamba Collieries regularly samples the groundwater around its operations to monitor its quality and ensure that no toxic waste contaminates the water and impacts people of community.

According to MCL Environmental Officer, Daniel Fwambo, the sampling exercise is done quarterly through 60-metre boreholes that are drilled specifically for extracting the water samples.

"If we don't monitor the water quality, we may be affecting the groundwater that people use and affecting the health of the community. As such, we have to, on a regular basis, monitor the quality of the water to ascertain if at all it's good for the people."



Fixing hand-pump to borehole

Once the water is sampled and certified clean, however, the borehole remains unutilised until the water sampling exercise is repeated after three months. Recognising an opportunity to serve the need of the growing community, MCL decided to place a handpump on their latest borehole to allow the surrounding villages access to clean water as well.

"In this case, we're drilling a borehole with a handpump so that it's a win-win for both the community and the mine. We first sample and check quality after which the community gets free access to clean ground water" explained Mr. Fwambo.

Before the installation of this hand pump, locals had to walk several kilometres to a nearby seasonal stream, which sometimes dried up in the hot season.

By providing access to clean water through these boreholes, MCL is making it easier for families to grow crops and rear animals for subsistence and business.

Because the water is being periodically monitored by the mine's environmental department, people in the community are confident the water is safe for use and consumption.

"We carry out chemical and biological analysis and if the water is deemed unfit for consumption, we stop them from accessing and drill another borehole" assured Mr. Fwambo.

"This water is consumed by the members of the community and is also used for their livestock and for the farming activities. It's a win-win for both the community and the company."

# MAAMBA ENERGY STARS SCOUT FOR FRESH LOCAL TALENT

**A**s part of its new strategy of sourcing local players, Maamba Energy Stars recently held a tournament for local teams to identify potential talent to strengthen the squad for the upcoming 2022/2023 season.

The tournament, sponsored by Suncrest Engineering Limited, contractor for Maamba Collieries Limited, saw Maamba-based teams from Division 4 and Division 5 of the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) participate.

Maamba Energy Stars Team Coach, Dennie Himoonde, said the company has for a long time been planning to rebrand the FAZ Division 1 side into a team comprising mainly local talent, as opposed to recruiting players from outside the coal-mining township.

“We’re trying to look at ploughing back to the community. And by ploughing back, we are saying as MCL, let’s use our own homegrown resource. We had 67 young players at the tournament, from which 13 were chosen. It was not easy, and you know when you’re selecting, some will feel left out, but you just have to swallow the bitter pill,” he said.

Mr. Himoonde who is also MCL Sports and Recreation Officer and brother to 2012 Chipolopolo AFCON Champion Hichani Himoonde, added that “Despite having 10 returning players, five on loan coming from other clubs, then the others are free agents and it’s the 13 new players selected from surrounding communities that form part of our rebranding process.”

He disclosed that the team’s technical bench met with the league committees for the two divisions prior to holding the competition to agree on the parameters for running the trials.

“We just looked at players that can be found in and around Maamba and we used the platform of the existing FAZ league. There’s a league committee for Division 4 and 5 that helped us organise the tournament,” Mr Himoonde said.



Maamba Energy Stars Team Coach, Dennie Himoonde

This rebranding was in part also fall out of the team’s sub-par performance in Division 1 at the elite provincial level in the previous season.

“Last season, we didn’t perform very well. We were almost heading for relegation but were saved by a whisker. The last game that we played, if we lost that game, we could have been now talking about Division 2 football but thank God we managed to pull through,” he explained.

Mr. Himoonde however, remains optimistic that his team can stage a comeback, return an improved performance and hopes to qualify for the national league in the new season.

“We have to come out first in the province as each province has a Division 1. So, the 10 teams that come out top in their respective provinces go for play-offs and then the victors from those play-offs are promoted to the national football league, known as the FAZ Super league.”



He stressed the importance of promoting sport in the area especially among the youth, saying that the exposure players get and the opportunities that come from competitive sport make for an invaluable source of economic empowerment for individuals in lower income communities in Maamba.

He further described Maamba Energy Stars as a *'well sponsored'* team in comparison to other teams in Division 1, thanks to MCL and pledged his Technical Bench and Executive's commitment to turning around fortunes at the football team.

Over the years, the club has produced some of the country's top talent, among them Zambian National Team and South African Premier Division side Sekhukhune United's goalkeeper Toaster Nsabata, Green Eagle's Spenser Sautu, and Under-17 Chipolopolo prodigy Mumba Muma.





# BOARD VISIT



Resident Director receiving the Directors at Maamba Aerodrome



Ground breaking ceremony for staff quarters





# KANZINZE BLASTING



Blasting is a multi-step operation that requires coordination, high safety standards and attention to minute detail





# BATOKA - MAAMBA ROAD URGENT REPAIR WORKS BY MCL





# SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE



Mweela Dam providing critical drinking water for livestock as dry season sets in



# BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING

**“OPERATING SOME OF THE MINE’S BIGGEST MACHINERY IS FULFILLING” – SAYS MCL’S FIRST FEMALE DUMP TRUCK OPERATOR**

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**I**t was love at first sight for Talent Siangazi when she first laid her eyes on a mine dump truck as a young girl. Little did she know that she would one day make history by becoming the first woman to drive heavy equipment at the country’s largest coal mine - Maamba Collieries Limited.

Growing up in the mining township over the last three decades, Talent always wondered why most heavy-duty equipment, especially dump trucks, were only operated by men, despite the abundance of skilled female drivers in Maamba Town.

“I chose this line of work because I used to admire the men, I saw driving these trucks and I wanted to be part of the crew,” she narrated.

“Over the years, I focused most of my energy to align my academic and personal ambitions with my dream of one day being at the helm of a machine as majestic as a heavy-duty mining dump truck. I was surprised to learn that no woman had ever worked as an operator at MCL before,” she said.

In 2020, Talent followed her deep-rooted desire to be part of MCL’s fleet operators and enrolled for a Heavy-Duty Truck Driving course in Choma and obtained her license the following year.

“We were taught how the vehicle operates. We learnt the theory in class and did practicals as well,” Talent said.

She landed her dream job with Suncrest Engineering Limited, at MCL early this year, making her the first and only female Heavy-Duty Dump Truck operator at the mine.

Part of her daily routine involves going through a mandatory rigorous safety brief before sunrise every morning before setting out on her assignments.

“We first have a safety discussion, and they tell us the tasks to be accomplished during our shift. After that we sign in and go to our respective trucks. Once at my truck, I carry out my pre-ignition visual checks by walking around the vehicle to inspect the condition of my tyres and other critical parts as well as all hydraulic lines to ensure there are no leaks that may compromise the truck’s operation,” she explains.



**“Maamba Collieries has been our all-weather partner here in Southern Province. The company has subcontracted other local companies and time to time they call us to unionise their staff.”**

“Then once inside my truck, I turn it on and check to make sure that everything is in good working order before taking up the positions we have been allocated for the day,” she said.

The Maamba-born mother of one, noted that she was not only happy about having achieved her life-long goal to be a heavy-duty dump truck driver but was also pleased at the fact that she was treated as a capable peer by her colleagues despite being a rookie driver.

“I love everything about this job. Whenever I’m standing alongside other male operators and I’m given this truck to drive, I feel just like any one of the other operators. I feel very fulfilled,” the 27-year-old added.

“I would like to encourage other women not to be daunted by the nature of the work. It’s a job just like any other. If there are any women who would like to work as truck operators, they should pursue their ambitions, so that the number of female operators increases,” she added.

MCL prides itself on being an inclusive equal opportunity employer and is gradually increasing the numbers of women employees in the mine and thermal power plant.



# HELPING EDUCATE THE YOUTH - MCL AWARDS TOPPERS AT RUSANGU UNIVERSITY

*“Education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself” – JOHN DEWEY*

.....

Life after university can be an overwhelming experience in a young person’s life. At the same time, it can be an equally exciting new episode filled with new possibilities. MCL in keeping with its motto of **...Making a Difference**, has recently helped realise the aspirations of two such youth.

Maamba Collieries through its community development arm, Maamba Development Trust (MDT) has partnered with Rusangu University to award high-performing students in the field of science.

During the 16<sup>th</sup> Rusangu University Graduation Ceremony, MCL awarded Andrew C Munganga and Chitoma Kolala the best students in their respective faculties with K3,000 each, for their outstanding performances in their final year.

“This token that you have received is just to congratulate you for the exceptional academic performance. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavours,” said Maamba Development Trust Manager Jethro Sikalunda.

“It takes discipline and total determination to achieve this. Continue with the same spirit even as you open new chapters in your lives.”

He noted, “it is only through education that you can change and make a difference in your life and communities you live in. When people and a community are educated it brings about development.”

Separately, MCL also provides a platform for students from various tertiary institutions to do their industrial attachments at its power plant in Maamba, where it runs the country’s largest coal mining concession and the largest thermal power plant, to enable students have a feel of a real-world working environment before they graduate.

“At MCL we believe education is the most important lever for social, economic and political transformation, and as such, it acts as a potent tool for socio-economic mobility thus facilitating the building of equitable and just societies,” explained Sikalunda.



Andrew Munganga - Best Student Sciences



Chitoma Kalola - Best Student Chemistry

In a bid to provide quality primary and secondary education in the area, Maamba Development Trust runs Maamba Private School which offers pre-school, primary and secondary education. The school employs 30 teachers and has over 700 pupils. The trust also lends a helping hand to several community and government schools in and around Sinazongwe district.

Education is one of the trust’s key pillars in terms of community support. MCL extends the opportunity to empower young people with marketable technical skills to improve their employability. This is by way of running a community-based livelihood improvement programme at its Skills Training Centre. The programme is meant for local youth from low-income backgrounds and provides training in metal fabrication and welding, as well as electrical engineering. The vocational training centre is affiliated to the Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA).

# MAAMBA'S YOUTH PROJECT TRAINS MORE LOCAL SEAMSTRESSES TO BECOME ENTREPRENEURS



**Ashley Mwale and Juliet Chiyesu, two local seamstresses operating at Maamba's main market.**

**T**he phrase - *it's always darkest before dawn*, perfectly encapsulates the inspiring stories of Ashley Mwale and Juliet Chiyesu, two local seamstresses operating at Maamba's main market who have turned their hobby into a viable business thanks to MCL's Maamba Youth Project.

Ashley and Juliet, never thought they could get to a point where they would be running their own businesses, let alone making enough money to sustain themselves. Having encountered many hurdles, the talented seamstresses took the bold step of enrolling into the MCL run training programme.

"Growing up I always wanted to be a tailor," narrates Ashley. "From a young age, I was interested in learning how to stitch clothes together and eventually started fixing broken zippers and adjusting my oversized clothes because at the time my family couldn't afford to take my clothes to a professional tailor."

As a widowed mother of one, she went through strings of financial turmoil that left her moving from one house to another, looking for part-time jobs just to make ends meet.

She was introduced to the Maamba Youth Project by her aunt who herself had successfully completed the intensive

training course, and it was then, Ashley recalls, that she knew the project could be the answer to her prayers and the opportunity to do what she always wanted and change her life.

On enrolling in the eight-month tailoring programme, Ashley was taught how to design and make clothes from different fabrics, including silk and chitenge. She notes, "What I liked the most about the training was that I learnt so many things I did not know before. Before the training, I mostly focused on adjusting clothes, but during the course, I was taught how to make actual clothes, and this helped me start my business shortly after completing the programme. Now I can design and make any outfit my customers request for."

During the early stages of her business, Ashley sewed her garments from home. However, low customer turnout forced her to move to the market and with the help of a friend, she set up a stand and started selling to more customers. "At first it was difficult to conduct business because people were doubting my tailoring skills and they feared the risk of me damaging their prized fabric. But after I started putting on display some of my designs, more people started trusting my work and business boomed after that," she added.





**Ashley Mwale**



**Juliet Chiyesu**

Ashley is immensely thankful to the MCL-sponsored programme for helping her realise her dream of running a tailoring business and turn it into a viable business venture.

Determined to continue making garments for as long as she can, the seamstress now takes any chance she can get to perfect her skills so that she can become one of Sinazongwe District's best-known tailors.

Meanwhile, Juliet, her fellow graduate from MCL's Youth Project, noted that her motivation to enrol into the programme came after her small thrift store customers constantly requested for the clothes, they were buying from her to be adjusted.

Lacking basic tailoring skills, she faced challenges finding means to adjust the clothes and decided to join the training project back in 2018. However, tailoring did not come naturally to Juliet, but thanks to close guidance from the programme facilitators, she understood the concepts she was taught in class and applied them to her practice.

Upon completing the training, Juliet bought a sewing machine and set up shop at her old thrift stand, transitioning from a second-hand clothes dealer to a fulltime seamstress. Through the business, the mother of three is now able to help her husband meet some of the family's basic needs including sending her young children to school.

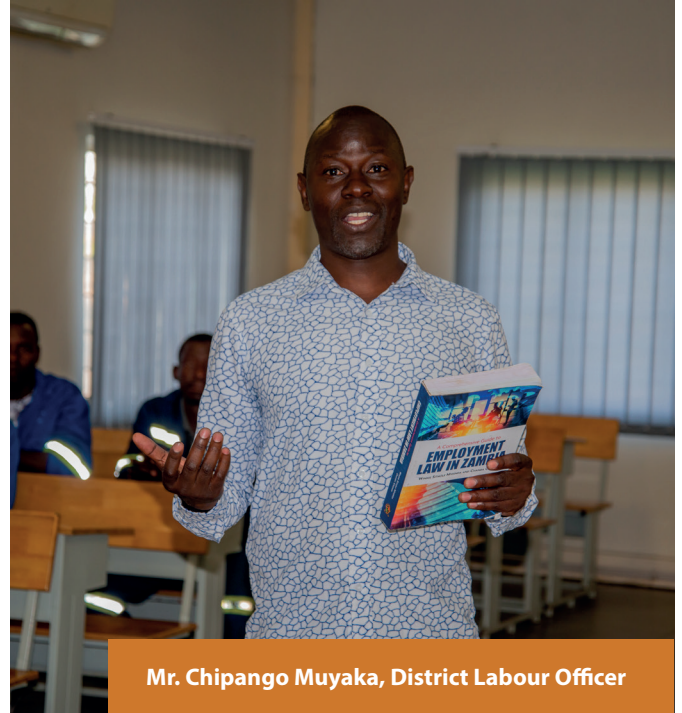
She says she enjoys tailoring because it has proven to be a profitable business that also helps her explore her creativity when designing outfits. "There is no design I have ever failed since starting my business. I can even make a dress in a single day. All I have to do is study the pattern and I will be sure to deliver a guaranteed quality outfit," she beams.

Juliet now has big dreams for her business. Moving forward, she hopes to someday own a clothing factory in Maamba and provide job opportunities for other members of the community. Reflecting on how her journey started, she remains ever grateful to MCL for supporting her dreams through the programme, which has since changed her life and helped her move from a striving 'salaula' trader to a seamstress with a flourishing business.

Ashley and Juliet are just a few among many community members who have benefited from the Maamba Youth Project which imparts skills in fashion & design as well as carpentry & joinery for interested locals and youth in Maamba.

Conceived over six years ago, the MCL sponsored Youth Project is run in partnership with the Catholic Church and has seen many youths and residents of the community acquire the skills necessary to create an opportunity to climb out of poverty and become self-reliant.

# PROMOTING A HEALTHY WORKING ENVIRONMENT



Mr. Chipango Muyaka, District Labour Officer

**P**romoting positive employer/employee relations is critical to the success of any work environment and ensures continued productivity among all workers.

It is for this reason that Maamba Collieries Limited renewed its aim of ensuring a harmonious work environment for its employees through a series of workshops aimed at addressing a number of topics on staff welfare at the mine and power plant.

The series of seminars, in collaboration with the Sinazongwe District Labour Office, covered a wide range of issues, from employee rights and obligations, grievance handling and disciplinary procedures, and the role of the Labour Union in industrial relations amongst others.

Sinazongwe District Labour Officer, Mr. Chipango Muyaka, commended the move and said it was a sure way of promoting a healthy working environment and preventing industrial unrest at the workplace. "We've got three cogs in the ambit of industrial relations: the employer, the employees and their organisations, as well as the government represented by the Ministry of Labour. So, our role is to make sure that we enforce the law. However, there would be no enforcement of the law if there's no sensitization; the employees are supposed to know what is expected of them and equally the employers, in order to promote equanimity amongst all," he said.

"The critical issue at the moment is that we are facing a surplus of both skilled and unskilled labour in the market. In this situation, as government, we want a situation where employers will not take advantage of the surplus labour, and employees should be paid according to their skills and experience. That's the atmosphere we would love to see as the Ministry of Labour."

Meanwhile MCL Human Resource Manager, Mr. Bwali Nda, said such seminars help with conflict mitigation and ensure harmony in the work environment for optimal and continuing productivity.

"MCL believes that an empowered workforce is more likely to work within the provisions of the law and subsequently within company policy and guidelines for enhanced productivity. It is hoped that all staff that attended the training sessions will share the knowledge gained with others and where matters are not clear, seek consultations with Union leadership, the Human Resource Department or indeed the Labour Officer for clarifications," he stated.

"MCL employees and management alike understand that the company's operations constitute essential services to the nation, and interruptions in operations arising from work stoppages would adversely affect the economy, livelihoods of people as well as day to day lives of the populace, especially considering that MCL contributes about 10% to the national electricity grid. It is for this reason that employee sensitization and knowledge sharing is important, to maintain a cordial work environment for everyone."

Mr. Nda extended his gratitude to the Sinazongwe District Department of Labour and the Mine Workers Union (MUZ) Maamba Branch Executive for their commitment to supporting the initiative.



# BATOKA – MAAMBA ROAD: THE LIFELINE OF SINAZONGWE



**T**he importance of the Batoka- Maamba road cannot be overstated as is the main artery, connecting the communities that live in and around Sinazongwe District. Economically, it is the only road that connects Zambia's largest coal reserves in Sinazongwe district to enterprises in the mining and manufacturing sectors, which rely on the area's high-grade coal as the primary source of energy for their operations.

The condition of the Batoka- Maamba road has increasingly become a source of great concern for all stakeholders, especially the residents of Maamba Township and MCL who have to regularly traverse this dilapidated road which serves as the lifeline between Maamba and the Batoka turnoff on the Great North Road.

"The road which has not seen any repairs in the past couple of decades, has deteriorated to the extent that crust is totally damaged with huge potholes making it dangerous for all who use it. To augment Government plans for rehabilitation of the road, which was recently advertised, the Provincial Minister Hon. Cornelius Mweetwa, MP along with Hon. Gift Sialubalo, MP of Sinazongwe approached the company to discuss ways in which MCL along with other corporate entities in the area could partner government in getting the road to motorable standards," says MCL's Senior Manager – Civil Mr. GVBV Pantulu.

He noted that the state of the road has been of great concern for the company,

"Following a recent meeting called by the area Member of Parliament Mr. Gift Sialubalo with other companies in the area, where he sought assistance for patch repairs to the worst parts, MCL discussed internally and decided to work on the portions of the road that were in the worst condition, while the other companies worked on filling of potholes" he stated.

"After thoroughly surveying the road, MCL decided to tackle patch works at the Batoka - Great North Road turn-off along and an area called Bump - so named because of the deplorable state of the road on these two stretches," he explained. "We chose these two portions of road and are doing the topping and the culvert top surface because it is totally damaged. These are gravel-based roads we're making – which should adequately serve us until a permanent solution to rehabilitation of the road by government can be implemented."

The company has since mobilised a plethora of heavy equipment and personnel from its Mining and Civil engineering departments with support from its contractors to quickly complete the project.

Sinazongwe District Council Chairman Mr. Cliff Siachibweka commanded MCL for its continued willingness to partner and support the government through the district council and other corporate entities to give the road a facelift saying that as a major commercial artery, the road was critical to the area's economic development.

He said that the works being undertaken would help enhance the safety of road users travelling between the Maamba Town and other parts of the country and also improve accessibility to Sinazongwe's tourist attractions.

"One of the council's main functions in the project is to get community support to ease access to materials for the civil engineers at the site," Mr. Siachibweka said. "The community wanted to start charging MCL for readily available material like gravel without realising that the company was spending a huge amount of money to carry out the patch work that would benefit the community at large, in terms of stimulating economic activities in the town that may lead to more employment opportunities for locals outside the mine."

"So, when MCL extends a hand, we also need to play our part as a community because we all use this same road, and we stand to benefit more once the works are complete."





**District Council Chairman,  
Mr. Cliff Siachibweka**

Mr. Siachibweka noted that it was crucial for private companies to partner with government to foster socio-economic and infrastructural development in communities. He said, “We want to implore other companies to emulate what MCL is doing because I have seen that Maamba Collieries, despite its struggles always want to move together with the community in terms of whatever they want to do, and they have always extended their hand in wanting to improve especially the area that they are operating from.”

“We have seen the foot bridges around Maamba town, they have done part of the township roads which anyone can see along with several other community projects that I can mention.”

He added that; “With these road works, Maamba can start promoting its many tourist attractions like the Zambian Queen, which in her heydays was the largest single piece of mining equipment in Africa – she forms a big part of Zambia’s industrial and mining history.”

“We also have a magnificent beach by the shore of Lake Kariba, we have islands where we can invite investors to put up lodges and boat cruises. There is also a rich diversity of wildlife on the same islands, and so the road is key to us. If it is done, then we are home and dry in terms of stimulating growth in other industries in the area apart from mining and the overall winners of a revamped Batoka - Maamba road will be the residents of Maamba town along with other towns in Sinazongwe.”



# CHRISPIN SAMPA: CAPTAINING A SAFE AND HEALTHY WORKING ENVIRONMENT



**S**everal studies have shown that workplace safety does more than promote the well-being of employees and employers.

A healthy work environment also increases productivity, performance, job satisfaction as well as individual, team, and organizational resilience. All these are necessary ingredients for success, especially in jobs as exhausting as those in the mines.

36-year-old Mine Captain, Chrispin Sampa, notes, “My favorite thing about working for MCL is the workplace culture of the people I am in contact with every day. My work environment is relaxed and safe and is often filled with humor. The working environment and culture of the company really promotes teamwork,” says Mr. Sampa.

On a day-to-day basis, Mr. Sampa’s job involves improving contractor performance, employee safety, optimal production, cost efficiency while also ensuring continuous improvement of mining operations.

He is also responsible for ensuring compliance with Mine Safety and Health Administration (MHSA) legislation, regulation and corporate governance requirements, promoting adherence to safety, health and environmental procedures while identifying unsafe and hazardous situations.

“My work is at the heart of the mining department,” he says. “It promotes productivity in a safe working environment while providing quality control to ensure customer satisfaction.”

Always striving for self-improvement, Mr. Sampa after graduation, worked at AAC Mining Executors, contracted by Mopani Copper Mine as a Materials Coordinator. Upon obtaining his Rock Breaker Specialist Certification from the Mopani Copper Mine Training School, he was promoted to Shift Boss. He then joined MCL in this same capacity in 2015 and was later promoted to Mine Captain. Since then, he has added a Blasting License and First Aid Certificate to his growing list of qualifications from MCL’s Mine Safety Department and the Chamber of Mines, respectively.

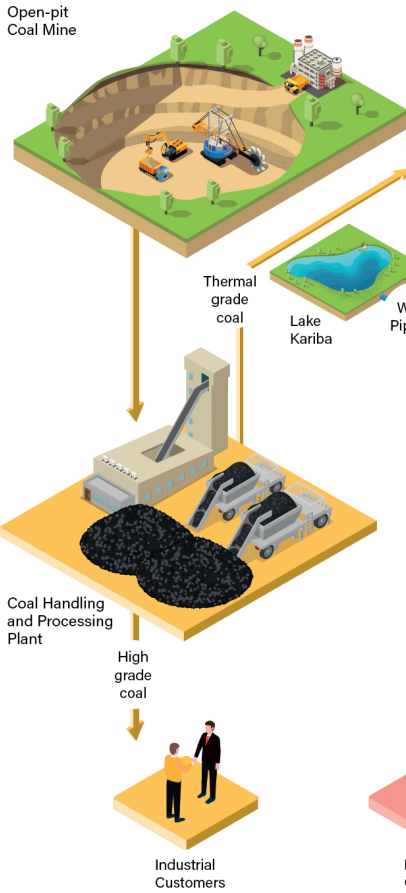
Currently, Mr. Sampa is advancing his academic career with a bachelor’s degree in Mining Engineering from his alma mater, the Copperbelt University.

Born and raised in Mufulira on the Copperbelt, mining consumes his work life. However, when he is not coordinating various activities in the mine pits, Mr. Sampa enjoys spending time with his wife and children. He also operates a successful business specialized in photography, video and music production. When not at the mine or his studio, Mr. Sampa is an avid reader and prominent member of his local church.

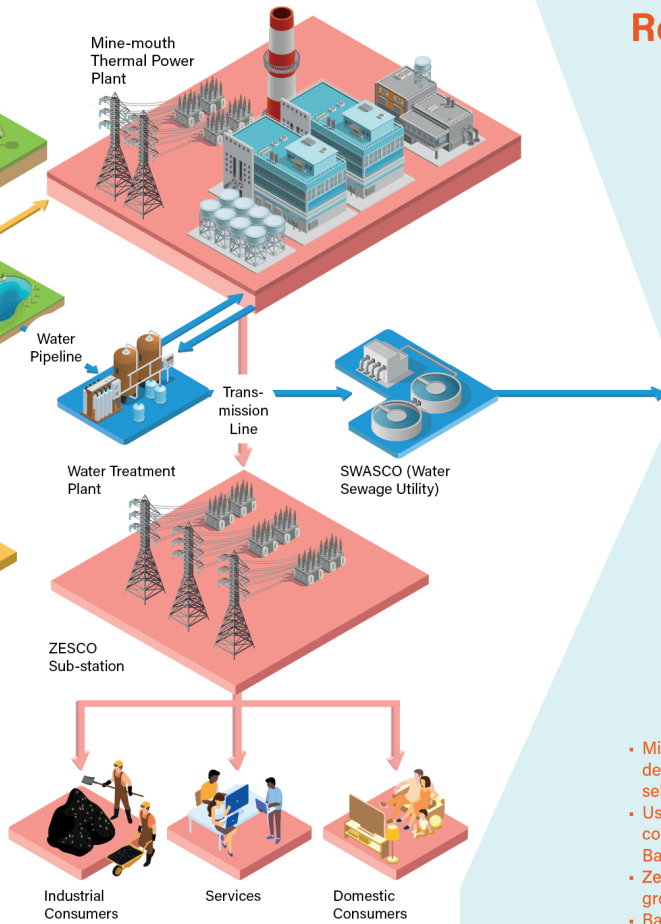
Balancing so many activities is only possible with the support and motivation that carefully cultivated, safe and healthy working conditions provide. Second only to an enabling environment, says Mr. Sampa, is hard work when it comes to ensuring success on the job. When asked what advice he had for anyone aspiring to do similar work, he shared: “Mining requires teamwork to achieve a set goal. If you want to do this work, you must be willing to collaborate with other people. You must also be an industrious worker because the work is demanding.”



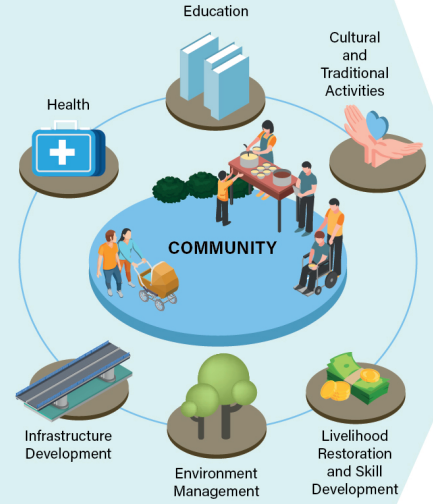
**Coal Mining**



**Thermal Power**  
Installed Capacity 300 MW



**Corporate Social Responsibility**



- Mitigate environmental degradation by use of polluting self-combusting coal in TPP
- Use of SOX/NOX/PM emission control technology *iaw* World Bank norms
- Zero-effluent discharge protecting ground water
- Back filling mine voids
- Dedicated arboriculture programme using re-cycled water
- 'Green Maamba' campaign – planting indigenous trees with community involvement

**Outcomes...**

*...making a difference*

- Conversion of polluting thermal-grade coal to high-value base-load energy
- Contributes 10% of Zambia's installed power generation
- Provides energy security and diversity in energy mix
- Sale of high-grade coal to domestic customers for construction industry and SMEs
- 100% by-product utilization
  - Unsellable coal as input for power plant
  - Fly ash for construction sector
  - Waste water for arboriculture
- Community Development

**ABOUT MAAMBA COLLIERIES LTD**

Maamba Collieries Limited (MCL), in Sinazongwe District in Southern Province, is Zambia's largest coal mine and the nation's biggest Independent Power Producer (IPP) with Zambia's only coal-fired Thermal Power Plant (TPP). The company operates a 300 MW (2X 150 MW units) modern, eco-friendly coal-fired power plant—the only one of its kind in Zambia—with the capacity to supply 10 percent of the country's currently installed electricity generation capacity. MCL is owned 65 percent by Nava Bharat Singapore Pte and 35 percent by ZCCM-IH, with some US\$919 million invested since 2010. The plant provides diversity in the nation's energy mix and contributes to the nation's base load electricity demand with high-availability power that is independent of climate change, thereby augmenting energy security of Zambia.



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